

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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SUBJ: CERP 0008-UNDP; EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: (A) STATE 072386, (B) 75 TEGUCIGALPA 1969

1. REGRET DELAY IN RESPONDING TO REF A. WE TRUST INFORMATION
PROVIDED HEREIN WILL BE USEFUL AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

2. RESPONSES KEYED TO PARAGRAPH 4 REFTEL (A):

A. UNDP RES. REP. APPEARS TO BE EFFECTIVE LEADER OF UNDP
ACTIVITIES AND COORDINATOR OF ALL SYSTEM TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE. THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH THE INSTITUTION
OF A FORMAL PROJECT APPROVAL PROCESS WHEREBY THE RES. REP.
IS THE ONLY OFFICIAL CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE
GOH AND UN AGENCIES. HE MUST ALSO APPROVE ALL UN PROGRAMS
IN HONDURAS. RES. REP. RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOH AND UN
AGENCIES APPEAR GOOD. UNDP AND IBRD ACTIVITIES ARE NOT
PARTICULARLY COMPLEMENTARY DUE TO DIFFERENT PROGRAM FOCUSES.

B. GOH'S ECONOMIC PLANNING COUNCIL (CONSUPLAN) IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING ALL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE.
GOH CHANNELS ALL ITS REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE THROUGH
CONSUPLAN AND UNDP RESPONDS THROUGH CONSUPLAN.
CONSUPLAN ALSO APPROVES ALL USAID/H GRANT PROJECT-
AGREEMENTS. FORMAL COORDINATION AMONG EXTERNAL DONORS

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IS CARRIED OUT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGENCY COMMITTEE
PER REFTEL (B), PARA B. UNDP ALSO PUBLISHES A YEARLY

LISTING OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS.

C. UNDP BUDGET FOR CY 76 AND CY 77 WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 35 PERCENT BELOW ORIGINALLY PLANNED. DRAFT OF SECOND FIVE-YEAR CYCLE (1977-81) DOES NOT REFLECT NEW BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS. OVERALL EFFECT OF AUSTERITY MEASURES WILL BE AN INCREASED SCRUTINY OF PROGRAMS BY THE GOH AS IT SETS FUNDING PRIORITIES AND DECIDES WHICH PROJECTS WILL BE DROPPED OR CUT BACK.

D. ONE BASIC CHANGE OF APPROACH HAS BEEN PRESENTED EXPLICITLY IN THE NEW COUNTRY PROGRAM. THE FIRST FIVE-YEAR COUNTRY PROGRAM WAS A COLLECTION OF SEPARATE PROJECTS WITHOUT A SPECIFIC PROGRAM FOCUS. THE SECOND FIVE-YEAR COUNTRY PROGRAM TRIES TO CONCENTRATE UNDP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN A FEW PRIORITY AREAS. REVIEW OF FIRST FIVE YEAR PROGRAM FOCUSED ON THE REPLICABILITY AND OVERALL IMPACT OF PROJECTS, AND RESULTED IN CHANGES IN PROJECT DESIGN. FOR EXAMPLE, THE EXPENSIVE PRODAI PROJECT WILL BE MODIFIED CONSIDERABLY BEFORE BEING EXTENDED TO NEW GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS.

E. TRIPARTITE EVALUATION SYSTEM IS USED FOR MULTIYEAR PROJECTS. RECENT FINANCIAL STRUCTURES WILL FORCE A RE-ANALYSIS OF PRIORITIES BUT NO FIRM DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE AS YET.

F. MISSION DOES NOT AS A MATTER OF COURSE RECEIVE COPIES OF UNDP PROJECT PROPOSAL. UNDP FEELS THAT GOH WOULD NOT WISH THEM TO DO SO. MISSION HAS RECEIVED COPIES OF COUNTRY PROGRAM AND A LIST OF ONGOING PROJECTS WITH SUMMARY DESCRIPTIONS. PROJECTS WHICH APPEAR TO BE OF MUTUAL INTEREST ARE DISCUSSED.

G. FOR UNDP PROGRAM IMPACT ON WOMEN SEE REFTEL B, PARA H. WHILE SOME UNDP EXPERTS ARE WOMEN, FEELING EXISTS THAT MEN ARE PREFERABLE FOR JOBS IN RURAL AREAS DUE TO HARSH LIVING CONDITIONS IN HONDURAS. BARTCH

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